

New Air leakage testing requirements under the 2018 Virginia Residential Code.

(Blower Door Testing)

Duct Leakage testing still required same as per the 2015 VRC

This is effective July 1st 2022. Cumberland County Building Inspections will start requiring the written report to be provided on and after September 1st 2022. The report will be required no later than final inspection.

N1102.4.1.2 (R402.4.1.2) Testing.

The building or dwelling unit shall be tested and verified as having an air leakage rate not exceeding five air changes per hour in Climate Zone 4. Testing shall be conducted in accordance with RESNET/ICC 380, ASTM E779, or ASTM E1827 and reported at a pressure of 0.2 inches w.g. (50 Pa). A written report of the results of the test shall be signed by the party conducting the test and provided to the building official. Testing shall be conducted by a Virginia licensed general contractor, a Virginia licensed HVAC contractor, a Virginia licensed home inspector, a Virginia registered design professional, a certified BPI Envelope Professional, a certified HERS rater, or a certified duct and envelope tightness rater. The party conducting the test shall have been trained on the equipment used to perform the test. Testing shall be performed at any time after creation of all penetrations of the building thermal envelope.

Note: Should additional sealing be required as a result of the test, consideration may be given to the issuance of temporary certificate of occupancy in accordance with Section 116.1.1.

During testing:

- 1.Exterior windows and doors and fireplace and stove doors shall be closed, but not sealed beyond the intended weatherstripping or other infiltration control measures;
- 2.Dampers, including exhaust, intake, makeup air, backdraft, and flue dampers shall be closed, but not sealed beyond intended infiltration control measures;
- 3.Interior doors, if installed at the time of the test, shall be open;
- 4.Exterior doors for continuous ventilation systems and heat recovery ventilators shall be closed and sealed;
- 5.Heating and cooling systems, if installed at the time of the test, shall be turned off; and
- 6.Supply and return registers, if installed at the time of the test, shall be fully open.